

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2554

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1194

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP PINS GR US

SUBJECT: WELCH MURDER: DISCUSSION WITH CARAMANLIS

1. IN THE COURSE OF MY PRIVATE CONVERSATION AFTER DINNER LAST NIGHT WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS (SEPTELS), I RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE MURDER OF RICHARD WELCH. I TOLD CARAMANLIS THAT MY GOVERNMENT VERY MUCH APPRECIATED ALL OF THE EFFORTS THAT HE AND GREEK AUTHORITIES HAD MADE IN CONNECTION WITH THE INVESTIGATION AND THE ADDITIONAL SECURITY MEASURES THEY HAVE BEEN TAKING RECENTLY TO PROTECT THE EMBASSY AND OTHER U.S. OFFICIALS IN GREECE. I SAID WE WERE CONTINUING A VERY STRONG EFFORT TO TRY AND HELP FIND THOSE WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE AND ASKED HIM WHAT HIS THOUGHTS WERE ON THE MATTER.

2. CARAMANLIS SAID HE WAS AT A LOSS TO KNOW WHAT MORE HE AND HIS GOVERNMENT COULD DO NOW. HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR WELCH'S MURDER. HE HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT GREEK OFFICIALS HAD CONDUCTED OVER 800 INTERROGATIONS WITH NO REALLY SATISFACTORY RESULTS. HE SAID HE WANTED TO DO ALL HE COULD AND ONCE AGAIN EXPRESSED HIS OWN DEEP SORROW ABOUT THE EVENT. HE SAID THAT HE HAD PERSONALLY AUTHORIZED THE NEWS EMBARGO ON THE INVESTIGATION
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AND HAD BEEN HEAVILY ATTACHKED IN THE PRESS AS A

RESULT. I SAID IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT THERE CONTINUE
TO BE INTENSE INVESTIGATING EFFORTS, AND CARAMANLIS
SAID HE CERTAINLY AGREED WITH THIS BUT HE COULD NOT
CONCEAL FROM ME THE DISCOURAGEMENT HE FELT WITH THE
LACK OF PROGRESS MADE THUS FAR. KUBISCH

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